

Application No.: 10/071,154
TC/A.U.: 1762 Docket No.: B01-59
Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2004

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A method for treating a plurality of non-coated golf ball surfaces, the method comprising the following steps in the order named:

providing a sealed casing having a rotational tumbler having a chamber disposed therein, the casing providing an electrode;

providing a plasma discharge rod disposed within the tumbler, the rod providing another electrode;

placing a plurality of untreated golf balls within the chamber;

drawing with a dry vacuum system a an oil free vacuum of about [[10 m]] 200m Torr or less within the sealed casing;

supplying an inorganic gas into the casing wherein the pressure is raised to about 100mTorr;

applying [[a high]] an electrode voltage across the electrodes to create [[a]] an unpolymerizable gas plasma discharge within the tumbler upon the plurality of golf ball surfaces; and

placing a plurality of untreated golf balls within the tumbler; and
rotating the tumbler such that movable surfaces of the plurality of golf balls within the tumbler receive [[for]] an even exposure of plasma discharge to all the golf balls therein,

wherein the [[dry]] oil free vacuum system effectively isolates all lubricating oils from contact with the surface of the golf balls.

4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Previously presented) The method for treating a plurality of uncoated golf ball surfaces according to claim 3, in which the rotational tumbler is a cylindrical basket having a plurality of perforated holes in a staggered pattern covering a substantial portion of the basket surface.
6. (Previously presented) The method for treating a plurality of uncoated golf ball surfaces according to claim 5, wherein the staggered pattern yields an open hole surface area greater than 50 percent.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) The method for treating a plurality of uncoated golf ball surfaces according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of perforated holes have a through diameter greater than that about 0.25 inch and less than about 0.50 inch.
9. (Previously presented) The method for treating a plurality of uncoated golf ball surfaces according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of perforated holes have a curved radius machined about their outer edges.
10. (Previously presented) The method for treating a plurality of uncoated golf ball surfaces according to claim 9, wherein the curved radius is about 0.06 to 0.12 inch.
11. (Cancelled)